

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** April 13, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on April 6, 2001

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** David A. Ullrich  
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Vermiculite Assessment Conducted, Koos Inc., Kenosha, Wisconsin**

On April 3, 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charles Gebien completed a Vermiculite Assessment at the former Koos Inc. Vermiculite Exfoliation Plant in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Koos Inc. exfoliated vermiculite from the 1960's until 1995, when the current property owner IMC Salt purchased the property and converted the operation to a salt packaging facility. Tom Krueger, Office of Regional Counsel, negotiated access for the assessment work with IMC Salt. Soil samples were collected from the vermiculite handling areas and are being analyzed for asbestos content.

Contact: Charles Gebien (312-353-7645)

**Construction Completed (Preliminary Close-Out Report Signed),  
Wash King Laundry Superfund Site, Baldwin, Michigan**

On March 30, 2001, U.S. EPA Region 5 signed a Preliminary Close-Out Report (PCOR) for the Wash King Laundry Superfund site in Baldwin, Michigan. The report documents that all construction activity has been completed at the Wash King Laundry site in Baldwin, Michigan. Past releases of tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene into site soils and groundwater are now being

addressed through soil vapor extraction and groundwater pumping. Volatile contaminants are removed from groundwater by air stripping. Activated carbon traps potential emissions from both the soil vapor extraction and groundwater pump and treat systems. Future monitoring will gather information needed to track progress in achieving remedial goals. Periodic reports, such as the statutory five-year review, will be prepared to examine whether the remedy, as executed, remains protective of public health and the environment.

Contact: Russell Hart (312-886-4844)

**Construction Completed (Preliminary Close-Out Report Signed),  
Peerless Plating Superfund Site, Muskegon, Michigan**

On April 5, 2001, a Preliminary Close-Out Report (PCOR) was signed for the Peerless Plating Superfund site located in Muskegon, Michigan. This PCOR documents that the U.S. EPA completed all construction activities at the site in accordance with the 1992 Record of Decision (ROD), as modified by the 1997 and 2001 Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The U.S. EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality conducted a pre-final inspection on February 10, 2001, and determined that the contractors have constructed the remedy in accordance with the remedial design plans and specifications. The selected remedy called for the demolition of the Peerless Plating building; pumping and treating contaminated groundwater via chemical precipitation and air stripping; in-situ vapor extraction of the organic compounds in soil; excavation and off-site disposal of soils contaminated with inorganic compounds above the cleanup levels; and groundwater monitoring.

Contact: Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

**Explanation of Significant Differences Signed, Peerless Plating  
Superfund Site, Muskegon, Michigan**

On April 5, 2001, an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) was signed for the Peerless Plating Superfund site in Muskegon, Michigan. The ESD explains the differences between the remedy selected in the Record of Decision, as modified by the 1997 ESD, and anticipated efforts. U.S. EPA has identified two additional changes to the ROD, as amended by the 1997 ESD, which now need to be made to the remedial action at this site. The first difference involves the stabilization of excavated materials. The ROD specified that all soils above cleanup standards would be stabilized onsite and then disposed off-site. It was determined that onsite stabilization would be too difficult to implement;

therefore, soils above cleanup standards will be excavated and transported off-site for treatment. The second difference includes the use of institutional controls. One component of the selected remedy specified in the ROD was that soil contaminated with inorganic compounds above the cleanup levels would be excavated. The U.S. EPA has identified two situations (in the saturated zone and under an adjacent hardware store) which will not be cleaned up to the extent originally anticipated; hence, the need for institutional controls to address the remaining contamination. U.S. EPA believes (and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality concurs) that the remedy as modified in this ESD remains protective of human health and the environment.

Contact: Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

**Elevated Gas Probe Readings, Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund Site, Albion, Michigan**

Discussions concerning elevated fence line gas probe readings at the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund site in Albion, Michigan, took place in February, March, and April 2001. A memo was sent out to the Albion Settling Party Group by U.S. EPA in February 2001, with the input of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, outlining corrective actions to be taken, including additional fence line probes and a contingency plan addendum to the Site Operation and Maintenance Plan. The Albion Settling Party Group is scheduled to complete the corrective actions concerning elevated gas probe readings in the Spring of 2001.

Remedial action requirements under the 1995 Record of Decision and the 1999 remedial action Consent Decree at the Albion-Sheridan site include: removal of hazardous and liquid waste drums from the site; construction of a solid waste landfill cover, including a flexible membrane liner and gas collection; installation of a groundwater monitoring system incorporating natural attenuation for arsenic; and, institutional controls. The Albion-Sheridan site is currently in operation and maintenance.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

### Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Compliance Inspections (Sector Initiative), Eastern Ohio

On April 3-5, 2001, George Rancich and Emil Kogan, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), conducted five Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Compliance Inspections in Ohio. The facilities inspected were among those which had not responded to a compliance assistance mailing made by U.S. EPA on behalf of the Ohio State Emergency Response Commission. These mailings were part of a joint six State/U.S. EPA Sector Initiative involving Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes 3471 (plating and polishing) and 3479 (metal coating and coloring).

The facilities inspected were: Micro Products, Willoughby Hills; Perrin Asphalt, Akron; Mold-Tech, Youngstown; Ohio Coatings, Yorkville; and, Sebring Industrial Plating, Sebring. A member of the Ohio State Emergency Response Commission/Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) participated in the first three inspections. The results of the inspections will be documented in reports to the appropriate OCEPP enforcement person for review and appropriate follow-up action as needed.

Contacts: George Rancich (312-886-6148)  
Emil Kogan (312-886-0430)

## TRAINING/CONFERENCES

### Outreach, Brownfields 2001 Conference, Chicago, Illinois

Ginny Narsete, Brownfields Coordinator, Brownfields Early Action Section, has continued extensive outreach for the 6th annual Brownfields 2001 Conference. The Brownfields conference, which will be held at McCormick Place in Chicago from September 24-26, 2001, is co-sponsored by U.S. EPA, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania and the International City/County Management Association. Region 5's role is to provide outreach to all U.S. EPA regions by encouraging them to share their expertise and knowledge on Brownfields sites. Conference attendees include; bankers, developers, planners, and community groups with a shared interest in the cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned or underutilized properties, commonly known as brownfields. Region 5 will also provide outreach to Region 5 States, encouraging them to submit a "call for presentations" (deadline: April 20, 2001),

and to provide outreach within their State. A web site has also been established for those who wish to submit online, [www.brownfields2001.org](http://www.brownfields2001.org). To date, Ginny Narsete and other U.S. EPA Region 5 staff have provided outreach to stakeholders group meetings, State brownfields coordinators, various community groups, and internal U.S. EPA audiences. The City of Chicago Department of Environmental Quality will be giving Brownfields site tours as part of the conference panel sessions. Other Region 5 U.S. EPA staff distributed flyers and provided other outreach. The Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania mailed out over 50,000 calls for presentations. The conference is expected to draw more than 3,000 attendees.

Contacts: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)  
Joseph Dufficy (312-886-1060 )

### **Federal Response Plan Seminar, Green Bay, Wisconsin**

On April 4, 2001, the sixth Facility Response Plan (FRP) Seminar was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The following topics were discussed: Alex Tzallas discussed FRP Preparation, FRP Review Process, FRP 5 Year Review Process, Integrated Contingency Plans Versus Facility Response Plans, Plan Deficiencies, Inspections, and Agency Expectations. Karen Vendl discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. EPA and Department of Transportation, and the new Vegetable Oil and Animal Fat regulations. Sheila Calovich discussed Unannounced Drills and distributed approximately 150 copies of Region 5 Inland Sensitivity Atlases to workshop attendees. Steve Faryan discussed Response Strategies and both Alex Tzallas and Karen Vendl discussed Legal and Enforcement Issues. Also 40 copies of the new Region 5 Oil Spill Exercise Generator, which assists the user in developing an in-house exercise, were distributed. The seminar was mostly attended by industry individuals, including terminal owners/operators, consultants, and agency personnel. Participants also included an individual from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Attendees' response was extremely positive, and they found the seminar and the informational packets informative and helpful for improving their oil programs. In addition, numerous attendees stated that they had traveled from other regional jurisdictions because no such outreach existed in their region.

The six FRP Seminars, to date, have trained 324 Industry representatives. Plans are underway to conduct four more FRP Seminars in October, 2001 (Joliet, Illinois; St. Louis area; Cleveland, Ohio; and, New Albany, Indiana, are being considered.)

Contact: Alexander Tzallas (312-886-0622)

**Superfund Training, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indianapolis, Indiana**

On March 27-28, 2001, U.S. EPA Region 5 provided an abridged training class on the Fundamentals of Superfund at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) office in Indianapolis, Indiana. IDEM requested the training for approximately 40 participants from various IDEM programs. Four Illinois U.S. EPA staff members also attended the training. Jan Pels, Beth Henning, Karen Vendl, Jon Peterson, and Dion Novak provided the training, which was coordinated by Steve Ostrodka.

Contacts: Steve Ostrodka (312-886-3011)  
Jan Pels (312-886-3009)

**STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

**CPR Training, Cincinnati, Ohio, Did you ever wonder...**

...Does it really work? After a long and hectic day of exercising Regional response capabilities for terrorist incidents at the U.S. EPA Training Center in Cincinnati, Ohio; Ralph Dollhopf and Tom Geishecker were having a relaxing dinner in the hotel restaurant. It was not very crowded. A couple of businessmen off to the right of us, some single dinners at various tables, a group of women behind us. Conversation centered on families, kids, sports injuries, etc. Suddenly, Ralph jumps up, rushes around the table and yells "**Heimlich maneuver!!**" (Gee, was it something I said...?) By the time I looked around, Ralph was already behind the victim (one of the ladies behind our table), had his arms wrapped around her waist, had his fist turned inward and pressed in her abdomen, and with one quick inward and upward thrust...saved her life!! Or, at least saved her from choking any more. Wow! Nice job! The woman, who was a nurse, later came over and thanked Ralph. She was very impressed with Ralph's Heimlich technique, and truly appreciated his quick response. Ralph Dollhopf, great dinner companion, good conversationalist, and someone you want to be with if you ever need to be Heimliched. A Region 5 hero.

Contact: Thomas Geishecker (312-886-0755)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)  
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